

Interagency Wildfire Management Team
Meeting Notes
July 17, 2002

Diana Webb (Risk Reduction and Environmental Stewardship Division, LANL), Randy Balice and Carey Bare presented the results of a wildfire modeling analysis to Jim Holt, Associated Director of the Laboratory for Operations, Barbara Stine and Scott Gibb. The presentation summarized previous research and management activities by Diana, Carey, Randy and Steve Koch, including the development of the modeling system and the economic benefits of reducing wildfire hazards through thinning. In addition, Diana will present a paper, coauthored by Randy Balice, and entitled "A real-time wildfire model for Los Alamos, New Mexico" at the Tech Transfer 2002 Seminar and Workshop on Innovative Technology, Evaluation and Commercialization. The workshop will be held on July 29 and 30. Finally, Diana announced that the supply of the book authored by Terry Foxx and entitled "Out of the Ashes" has been exhausted and the book needs to be reprinted.

Gene Darling (Emergency Management and Response, LANL) reported that the recent moisture that has been received has been unevenly distributed. For instance, S-Site has not received any rain from the recent rainstorms that have passed through the area. However, humidity has generally remained within the 40 to 60 percent range.

Duncan Leao (Cerro Grande Rehabilitation Project, LANL) presented and described the wildfire hazard reduction proposals for Planning Area 5, which includes TA-3, TA-58 TA-59 and other adjacent areas. Areas proposed for thinning include fuel breaks along Fairway Drive, near the hospital, and on the south side of TA-3. The plan also includes provisions for closing existing roads and rehabilitating them at the conclusion of thinning.

Jim Streit (Fire Protection Group, LANL) announced the reopening of LANL lands for recreational use. This reopening was made possible by the recent decrease in wildland fire danger and includes hiking, bicycling, jogging, walking and similar types of activities. The reopening takes effect on Monday, July 15, 2002.

Pat Valerio (Ecology Group, LANL) has assisted with the preparation for thinning in Planning Area 5 by marking habitat for threatened and endangered species.

Randy Balice (Ecology Group, LANL) led a tour of the forest and townsite areas burned by the Cerro Grande Fire for the Backyard Tree Farmers group from Albuquerque.

The next IWMT meeting will be at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, July 31, at TA-21, Building 210 in the Conference Room (142). The IWMT meets every other week and these meetings are open to the public. Contact Randy Balice (balice@lanl.gov, 665-1270) for further information, or to get on the distribution list for these meeting notes.